

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claim 8 was objected to but was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. With the present amendment, the limitations of claim 8 have been added to independent claim 1. As such, claim 1 and claims 2-7 which depend therefrom are patentable over the cited art.

The Office Action also indicated that claim 7 was objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. With the present amendment, claim 16 has been newly added which represents claim 7 written in independent form. In addition, claims 17-20, which correspond to claims 2-5 have been added as dependent claims to new claim 16. In light of the indication that claim 7 was allowable, claims 16-20 are in form for allowance.

The Office Action also indicated that claim 11 was objected to but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. With the present amendment, the limitations of claim 11 have been added to claim 9, thereby placing claim 9 and claims 10, 12 and 13, which depend therefrom, in form for allowance.

The Office Action also indicated that claim 12 was objected to but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. With the present amendment, new claim 21 has been added which represents claim 12 written in independent form. In addition, claims 22 and 23 have been added to correspond to claims 10 and 13. As such, claims 21-23 are in form for allowance.

The Office Action also indicated that claim 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. With the present amendment, claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 15.

In light of the above amendments, claims 1-7, 9, 10, 12-14 and 16-23 are patentable over the cited art.

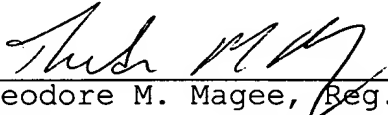
Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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